

February 21, 1993

WOMEN'S HOCKEY UNDER-18 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The tournament came to a close today but not before fans were treated to one more day of outstanding hockey.

In the first game of today's competition, Saskatchewan met P.E.I. for fifth place. P.E.I. managed to stay close for half the game before finally succumbing to Saskatchewan by the score of 7-3.

Saskatchewan opened the scoring at the 2:22 mark of the first period when Rhonda Quiring slipped a shot past Panther goalie Melissa Panting. Saskatchewan went up 2-0 five minutes later when Erin Balfour scored her fourth goal of the championship.

P.E.I. cut the lead to 2-1 on a goal by Sandy Arsenault before Janna Dewar scored the first of her three in the game. P.E.I. closed to 3-2 on a goal by Corinne Allen but Dewar scored again and the Panthers never got closer. Other goalscorers for Saskatchewan were Terra Lee Flaman and Alison Stewart. Sandy Arsenault added a second goal to round out the scoring for P.E.I. Dewar and Arsenault, the offensive catalysts for their respective teams were named the Players of the Game.

The Bronze Medal game featured a fast and entertaining contest between the Ontario Blue Team and Alberta that featured plenty of skating and scoring chances. The game was finally won by Ontario Blue by the score of 2-1.

Alberta got on the board first when Valerie Gill converted a Hayley Wickenheiser feed at 2:40 of the first period. That lead stood up until the 3:31 mark of the second period when Tamara Jones skated in on the left side and blasted a shot to the stick side of Alberta goaltender Niki Ree. That goal seemed to invigorate the Blue Team and less than two minutes later, they got the eventual game winner when Karina Verdon poked in a rebound at the 5:12 mark.

This game featured plenty of excellent goaltending by both Ree and Blue Team goalie Jessica Audet. Alberta presses throughout the third period but Audet was there time and again. She made 26 saves for the game while Ree made 22 saves and was equally excellent. For their superlative play, Audet and Ree were named the Players of the Game.

And in the final, Ontario Red showed why they went 5-0-0 in the round robin. They dominated the Quebec Team and skated off with a 4-1 win and the gold medal in this inaugural championships.

The first period was pretty even and the teams skated off tied at 1-1. Rebecca Kellar put Ontario Red up 1-0 when she poked the loose puck past Quebec goalie Mylene Benoit at the 1:55 mark of the first period. Quebec got that one back on the power play at the 4:14 mark when Janick Boivin converted a pass from Barbara Sylvain.

In the second period, Ontario Red came out strong and turned a close game into a minor rout. The Red Team scored three times and outshot Quebec 20-3 and that salted

the game away. Amanda Benoit scored at the 5:35 mark to put her team up for good. Jayna Hefford scored a goal at 9:45 to put Ontario 3-1 and Lisa Hanlon scored a breakaway goal at the 12:02 mark of the period to round out the scoring.

The third period was a little calmer than the second but the Red Team kept the Quebec team bottled up in their zone for most of the period. Final shots from the game were 35-19 for the Ontario Red Team.

After the game the Championship All-Star Team was chosen. The following players were selected:

Goalie - Jessica Audet, Ontario Blue
Defense - Cheryl Pounder, Ontario Red
 - Virginie Bilodeau, Quebec
Forwards - Hayley Wickenheiser, Alberta
 Lisa Hanlon, Ontario Red
 Jayna Hefford, Ontario Red

The Championship MVP was Amanda Benoit of the Ontario Red Team.

In earlier ceremonies, individual sportsmanship awards were given out. The winners were:

Individual Achievement by a goalie - Jessica Audet, Ontario Blue
Individual Achievement by defense - Sandra MacLean, P.E.I.
Individual Achievement by forward - Kari Colpitts, Alberta
Team Sportsmanship Award - P.E.I.
Most Sportsmanlike Player - Sandra Davidson, Saskatchewan